

**** NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE ****

Call for Investments FFY 2018

(October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018)

Deadline for Letters of Intent: June 6, 2017

Deadline for Grant Application: July 7, 2017

The West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council is pleased to announce that it will make available up to \$ **100,000** (in total) to fund new projects aimed at improving opportunities for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to gain full participation and inclusion in their communities. The Council is an independent, self-governing State agency established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1972, and funded by the Federal Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD). Council membership is by appointment of the Governor and is composed of over sixty percent (60%) persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities and family members.

Council Mission

The Council's mission is to assure that West Virginia citizens who have developmental disabilities receive the services, supports, and other forms of assistance they need to exercise self-determination and achieve independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in their community.

Five Year State Plan and Funding Targets

The DD Council will support innovative projects and activities based on goals and priorities described in its State Plan. To see the Plan, go to www.ddc.wv.gov and click on “About Us” prompt on left side of page then select “**State Plan.**” For FFY 2018 the Council will fund new demonstration, research, and training projects specific to the following:

Plan Goal Issue: Service System Improvement

Funding Target/Project (1) Description: Study/Report on Community-Based Services for People with I/DD

A study and report to describe availability and access to essential publicly funded community based services for people with I/DD. Report will address eligibility, access, impact of service delivery, and choice and control of supports. Study to include assessment of disparities for underserved and unserved groups.

Funding Target/Project (2) Description: Training/Workshop to Reduce Risk of Sexual Assault

Collaborative initiative to compile credible materials for curriculum to train up to 75 people who serve children and/or adults with I/DD on how to reduce the risk for sexual assault/abuse and respond effectively when assault/abuse occurs.

Funding Target/Project (3) Description: A Study and Report on the Status of Employment of West Virginians with I/DD and Plan to make WV an Employment First State

Report will provide most current data on employment of persons with I/DD in WV, national trends, federal mandates and examples of high performing states. Report should examine the full range of policy, legislative or other formal options as appropriate in detailing strategies for improving employment services for people with I/DD.

Report will be designed to educate policymakers about benefits of people with I/DD working, including helping people out of poverty and reducing their reliance on public programs. Report may include results of planned DD Council sponsored public community conversations with parents, students, teachers, and citizens about local resources and what communities can do to improve employment outcomes for working age adults with I/DD.

Plan Goal Issue: Advocacy and Self-Advocacy

Funding Target/Project (4) Description: Advocacy Focused Parent Training or Written Guide on Competitive Integrated Employment

A plain language toolkit or guide to dispel myths about Social Security benefits and work, school to work transition, customized employment, how to obtain assistance and support, and the need to have high expectations. The toolkit or guide will provide an explanation of federal and state obligations to support all students in transition planning including employment.

Project Purpose and Outcomes Expected

West Virginia Developmental Disabilities Council projects are time limited and address the Council's goals for supporting people with developmental disabilities in their communities (as appropriate). Proposals for demonstration grant projects are expected to be innovative and propose new ways to design and deliver community based services.

Grant proposals should include strategies for statewide systems improvement and be replicable in other communities. Council funds are limited. **The Council will not fund**

proposals that address issues that are the obligation by law or regulation of other agencies or organizations. Additionally, the Council does not intend to replace funds that programs expect to lose from other sources.

Successful proposals will have the potential for statewide applicability and include plans for sustainability of the project beyond the initial investment period (if appropriate).

Non-Solicited Project Ideas

Organizations may also submit project ideas (and formal proposals) that are not specifically described in this Notice but support the Council's overall mission and State Plan goals.

Eligible Organizations

Public and private entities, universities, and research organizations are eligible to apply. Organizations that receive grant awards from the Council must meet all conditions set forth in the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Grant Agreement and comply with all applicable policies of the WV DD Council. Information about specific legal, fiscal, and administrative rules is available upon request.

Call for Investments Proposal Timeline and Process

1. **Technical Assistance and Clarifications:** Frequently asked questions and answers from previous years are posted on the DD Council's web site: www.ddc.wv.gov "Council Projects" prompt on left side of page then select "Grant Funding."
2. **Letter of Intent:** *The submission of the Letter of Intent is optional, and the lack of one will not reflect negatively on the evaluation of a complete proposal.* The Letter of Intent provides the applicant organization an opportunity to receive preliminary written feedback on the proposed project. Any interested and eligible organization may submit its project idea to address one or more funding targets listed in this Notice.

The Letter of Intent (instructions attached) will include information about the organization's history in supporting people with developmental disabilities and qualifications to carry out the proposed project. **The Letter of Intent must be received no later than the end of business (EOB) June 6, 2017.**

3. **Formal Project Application:** The formal application for funding must be an original copy (**no faxes**) and received no later than the **NOON on July 7, 2017**. The proposal details are contained in the Grant Application document.

4. **Awards and Notification:** The WV DD Council intends to approve funding for selected grant project applications on **July 25, 2017**. All applicant organizations will be notified in writing within five working days after the decisions are made. Grant awards are based on the availability of funds and response to this Notice, and the overall State Plan goals of the Council.

Interested parties may obtain copies of the grant application by contacting the office or downloading the information from the website at: www.ddc.wv.gov “Council Projects” prompt on left side of page then select “Grant Funding.”

Send *Letters of Intent* and completed *Grant Applications* to:

**WV Developmental Disabilities Council
110 Stockton Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25387**

WV Developmental Disabilities Council
Instructions for Letter of Intent
*** OPTIONAL ***
FFY 2018

I. Purpose

The **Letter of Intent** provides the potential applicant for grant funds an opportunity to outline a possible proposal and receive preliminary feedback on that idea.

II. Content

The **Letter of Intent** must be typewritten and not exceed **two pages** in length. The following outline is to be followed:

- A.** Identification of the **issue** (e.g., self employment) for which the organization is interested in making an application.
- B.** Description of the **goals and key objectives to be accomplished** in one year. Description of goals and objectives planned to be accomplished in subsequent years (one or two additional years) if they are necessary for the completion of this project.
- C.** Identification of the **anticipated methods to be used** to carry out the project including collaboration with other community organizations. Description of how the results of the project will benefit people with developmental disabilities in achieving greater independence, inclusion, productivity and gain greater control over their own lives in their communities.
- D.** Summary of the **anticipated budget** for the project for one year.

Notes:

- Letters of Intent may be submitted by fax (304-558-0416), email (jim.h.cremeans@wv.gov), mail (see below) or hand delivered.
- Feedback will be given only to those Letters of Intent received by EOB on June 6, 2017.

WV DD Council
110 Stockton Street
Charleston, WV 25387